IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for trimming birefringence of an integrated optical device with at least one waveguide having a birefringence characteristic, comprising the steps:

- providing at least one electrode on top of the waveguide; and
- applying power equal to or above a predetermined power level to said at least one electrode to heat a region of the waveguide for causing an irreversible birefringence change of the waveguide.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized by the step:

measuring the birefringence change, preferably with said at least one electrode by supplying electrical power to said electrode.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that said predetermined power level is 0.8 W/mm.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that said integrated optical device is an optical filter device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, characterized in that said integrated optical device is a thermo optical device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, characterized in that said optical filter is [[an]] a Mach-Zehnder Interferometer or a ring resonator.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that said electrode is provided as a metal electrode, preferably as a chromium heater electrode.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical device for switching or filtering light passing through a waveguide having a birefringence characteristic, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the waveguide has been treated by providing at least one electrode on top of the waveguide and applying power equal to or above a predetermined power level to said at least one electrode to heat a region of the waveguide for causing an irreversible birefringence change of the waveguide.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 8, characterized in that said waveguide has a core layer sandwiched between a cladding layer, wherein both layers are made of a silica based material and the cladding is highly doped with a material adapted to balance stresses for TE and TM polarization modes.

10. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 8, characterized in that it is a Mach-Zehnder interferometer.

11. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 8, characterized in that it is a ring resonator.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the heat causes a change of a stress distribution in the waveguide.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the region of the waveguide is below the at least one electrode.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the region of the waveguide is heated to a temperature of more than 200° C.